

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /151 W

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R 180815Z NOV 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 645

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: KURDISH-COMMUNIST CLASHES

1. ON NOV 11 COMMUNIST DAILY TARIQ ASH-SHAAB BEGAN DENOUNCING KURDS FOR ARMED ATTACKS AGAINST COMMUNIST VILLAGES IN SULAIMANIYA PROVINCE, CLAIMING KDP HAD ORDERED PESH MERGA FORCE OF 2,000 TO DISARM AND STRIKE COMMUNISTS. PESH MERGA ACCUSED OF KILLINGS, KIDNAPPINGS AND ASSAULTS. INCIDENTS AND ACCUSATIONS FILLED PAPER THROUGHOUT WEEK.

2. KDP AT-TAAXHI RESPONDED BY ACCUSING ICP OF HAVING TURNED AGAINST KDP, WHICH HAD HISTORICALLY PROTECTED IT, AND WORKING AGAINST KURDISH INTERESTS. IT CLAIMED COMMUNISTS IN SULAIMANIYA HAD RECEIVED ARMS FROM IRAQI ARMY AND ATTACKED KDP HDQS AT DAR BINDIKAN ON NOV 7 KILLING FOUR PERSONS. DESPITE JOINT ACCORD TO DESIST, FURTHER ICP ATTACKS TOOK PLACE. ICP CLAIMED THAT PESH MERGA MADE UNPROVOKED ATTACKS ON SEVERAL VILLAGES AND THAT KURDISH GOVERNOR OF SULAIMANIYA HAS TAKEN ANTI-COMMUNIST MEASURES.

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3. ON NOV 17 TARIQ ASH-SHAAB PUBLISHED OPEN LETTER TO KDP

REITERATING THAT CRISIS CONTRIVED BY KDP AND STATING THAT REAL REASON IS ROLE ICP PLAYED IN SUPPORT NATIONALIZATION OF IPC, AND ITS PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT AND SINCE JULY IN NATIONAL FRONT. PAPER SAID KDP HAD ALWAYS DEMANDED ITABANDON BAATH AS PRICE OF COLLABORATION. IT DEMANDED KDP STOP FIGHTING AND RELEASE PRISONERS. CASUALTY FIGURES MENTIONED BY EACH SIDE ARE COMMUNISTS 13 KILLED AND 12 WOUNDED; DURDS 11 DEAD AND 29 WOUNDED. AT-TAAXHI CLAIMS REAL CAUSE OF CLASHES IS ARMING OF COMMUNISTS AND ASKS RHETORICALLY WHY COMMUNISTS GIVEN ARMS ONLY IN NORTH. IT ANSWERS THAT ICP EXPECTED TO PLAY ROLE AGAINST KURDS.

4. ON NOV 18 AT-TAAXHI CALLED FOR END TO PRESS CAMPAIGN AND OPENING OF TALKS. TARIQ ASH-SHAAB SAID IT WILL STOP CAMPAIGN NOV 19 AND NAMED DEL TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH KDP.

5. ALTHOUGH PERHAPS UNRELATED TO CLASHES, ON NOV 18 AT-TAAXHI PUBLISHED JOINT KDP-CPSU COMMUNIQUE ON RECENT VISIT OF KDP LEADERS SALAH AL-YUSINI (MINISTER OF STATE WITHOUT PORTFOLIO) AND DARA TAQFIQ TO USSR. COMMUNIQUE CALLED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF MARCH MANIFESTO AND CALLED FOR KDP TO JOIN NATIONAL FRONT OF BAATH AND ICP.

6. COMMENT: OFFICIAL AND PARTY PRESS HAVE IGNORED THIS CRISIS WHICH GIVES WEIGHT TO KURDISH CLAIM THAT COMMUNISTS BEING USED BY REGIME TO WEAKEN KURDS. ALTHOUGH VISIT OF KDP DEL TO MOSCOW APPARENTLY PROCEEDED CLASHES, IT APPEARS TO BE PART OF SOVIET EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT TYPE OF SETTLEMENT OF KURDISH ISSUE THAT WILL GIVE SOVIETS AND ICP MAXIMUM LEVERAGE IN FUTURE.
LOWRIE

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